THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE

MAY
2019

Southeast Federation Of Stamp Clubs
www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html

American Philatelic Society Chapter 731
www.Stamps.org

Official Journal of the Chattanooga Stamp Club
MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE HICKORY VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 6605 SHALLOWFORD RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN.
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, MEETING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM -- VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

May 9 …….. Monthly Meeting
Program …….. Semi-Annual Auction
June 13 …….. Picnic

CLUB OFFICERS

President …….	Mike Ezell	mhezell@gmail.com
Vice-president ……..	Jim Hogue	jlhoguejr@charter.net
Secretary ……..	Randy Patterson	randypatterson52@yahoo.com
Treasurer ……..	Carl Anderson	connie_anderson195@epbfi.com
Newsletter ……..	Gene Bricker	gbricker@catt.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are $10.00; send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer:

Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd.
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE

The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society. The club has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

The Southeast Federation web site is a source for information about stamp collecting activities in the region.
Visit at: www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

American Philatelic Society (APS) is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting Foundation of philately in the world., With about 30,000 members worldwide.
Visit at: www.Stamps.org.

Minutes of April Meeting

Mike opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

The treasurer gave his report of $715 in our account and pitched next month's auction by reminding everyone that we get 100% of all club lots sold and 10% of all other lots. The secretary read last month's minutes and both reports were approved.

Old business - We were reminded of the picnic in June on the 13th. Mike lead a discussion on the circuit books, mentioning that we are coming up short on the postage needed to send them back. One suggestion was to have more club lots at the auction and limit the number of items that each member can submit to the auction but no action was taken. Members were reminded to fill out their surveys and several did so that night. .Mike also gave the option for members who did not order shirts last time to do so, if they desired,

here was no new business and the meeting adjourned followed by the Single Page Exhibits.

Randy Patterson, Secretary

AUCTION THIS MONTH!

Auctions are an important source of income for the club. Each lot entered in the auction by a member nets the club 10% commission, paid by the seller.

Lots marked as "Club Lots" are owned by the club and 100% of the sale price goes to the club treasury. This month, there will be several "Club Lots" in the auction. Come prepared for some real bargains and bid on the club lots!

Auction Lots for sale may be entered only by club members. Anyone may bid on the lots in the auction!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Collectors

Next month is our first auction night of the year and we are hoping you are getting those items together that you no longer need. Remember, if you are a member, you can buy and sell, but if not, you can only buy. Come have some fun!

Our annual picnic is coming in June and we need to start getting prepared for that. If you are planning on coming, please email me and let me know how many people are coming and what side dishes you may be bringing. Club will furnish the fried chicken and paper products and utensils. Email me at mhezell@gmail.com. We need to have this information no later than May 20th.

We are still able to order shirts with the club name on it if you missed out. Just contact through email and I will send you the information.

Thank you all for being loyal collectors of the hobby and if you know anyone else that would like to start collecting or is a collector, please invite them to come.

Mike

****

APRIL 2019 U.S. STAMPS

April 2
Marvin Gaye

April 10
Post Office Murals

April 23
Maureen"Little Mo" Connolly

Don't forget the picnic in June! Further information on the picnic will be coming in the next few weeks and in the Newsletter next month with details on what the club provides, etc.

.....

Question: Did you hear the one about the unstamped letter?

You wouldn't get it!

Chattanooga Stamp Club Survey

Everyone is reminded to complete and submit your input to the club survey if you haven't already done so.

Please complete the form whatever your interest in the club is and return it at the May meeting or mail it to the secretary, Randy Patterson, 1903 Red Fox Lane, Hixson, TN 37343 at your earliest convenience.

Also include any comments and your collecting interests on the back of the sheet. Survey is attached!

THANK YOU.

Spain and the Panama Canal

A new stamp from Spain pays tribute to the expanded Panama Canal (a bit late—it opened nearly three years ago). The design includes a map of the canal, showing that it actually runs north to south, and a sketch of today's huge container cargo ships.

It was back in the 16th century that Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa discovered that the shortest route from the Atlantic to the Pacific would be across what is now Panama. The technology to dig a canal across the isthmus didn't evolve until the late 19th Century, and the United States took over the construction of the canal from a failed French company in 1903. The construction of the canal was finally completed in August 1914, just as World War I was breaking out, and no formal opening ceremony was ever held.

By the late 20th Century it became obvious that the locks in the canal were too small for the ships we can build today (a term, Panamax, was created to describe the largest ships that could fit through the locks). The expansion project began in 2007. The work was done by a consortium of European companies led by Sacyr of Spain, and its partners: the Belgian Jan de Nul, the Italian Impregilo and the local Constructora Urbana. There is still some squabbling over work to be done (including a bridge for the Pan-American Highway), but completed work includes the construction of two new sets of locks with 16 floodgates, eight at each end of the canal. To date more than 3,000 larger ships of the size now called "NeoPanamax" have transited the canal.

A century ago, when the first Canal was being created, many Spaniards worked on its construction under the orders of the American engineers who carried out the great work and, therefore, the fact that the new expansion was carried out by companies of our country, that somehow closes that historical cycle and is another example of the relationship and commitment that Spain has with America. The centennial Panama Canal, is an impressive engineering work that links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and makes the ships that cross it avoid a much more dangerous crossing through Cape Horn. But over the years, the need to expand and improve the infrastructure of the Canal, with the aim of adapting it to the current needs of international trade and freight traffic.

The stamp that recognizes the Spanish work in this macro project, includes an illustration that represents the ships and merchandise that have been crossing the continent for more than a century and, in the background, a detail of the map of the Channel indicating the situation of The locks that open the way to each of the Oceans.

Date of Issue: 2 January 2019

Speaking of Stamps: Laugh Time

By Herman Herst, Jr. (From STAMPS Magazine, October 15, 1988)

This writer never has laid claim to being a serious collector. In fact, I don't even like to see serious collectors.

Of course, the term is a misused one, and I flinch when I read a dealer's advertisement that he is seeking the names of serious collectors. Philately is a fun hobby, and even those who delve into it deeply should get some pleasure out of it. Long faces are for those who have taken their licking in real estate, or the stock market, or in buying gold or diamonds "as an investment."

So, let's laugh a bit. Let's think of the poor club president who is lying in the hospital, finally showing improvement after having come close to death. Among the get well cards is one from his stamp club:

"The Board of Directors of the Upper Metatarsal Stamp Club has heard of your recent illness, and at our regular board meeting a motion was moved and seconded that we send you this card, expressing the hope for your complete recovery. The motion was passed by a vote of five to four."

And then, there was the president who was complaining about the tedious obligations that went with the office:

"I have the key to the room, and I have to get there an hour before to unfold the chairs, put out ash trays, turn on the air conditioning, and greet all new visitors. And then, after the meeting, I have to stack the chairs, clean the ash trays, sweep the floors, and tidy up the place. Sometimes I am there two hours after the meeting." "Why do you do it?" a friend asked.

"Well, if it wasn't for the honor of being president, I would have given it up long ago."

Another club president was making his farewell speech as his term of office ended:

"I have heard presidents ahead of me complain how hard it is to get members of this club to work. In fact, my predecessor said when his term ended a year ago that of all the work done by this club, 50 percent is done by the same group of members. They are the loyal, hardworking, enthusiastic ones. But, the other 50 percent, he said, are lazy, uncooperative people, who are absolutely no use at all. I am very glad to report that during my term of office, things have been exactly the opposite."

And then, there is the group of collectors who found a short cut through a cemetery a time-saving device as they walked home from the stamp club. On this one particular bright, moonlit night they passed the grave of the local stamp dealer, now possessed of a new tombstone: "HERE LIES A STAMP DEALER, AND AN HONEST MAN."

"Look at that," said one of the party.

"What about it?" asked another.

"How in blazes," the first one asked, "did they ever get another man into Jack's grave?"

Another tale, and this one quite true, concerned an indignant letter from a collector to a New York dealer who had advertised some U.S. commemoratives for sale, and added a note there would be a " 15 percent premium for N.H."

"I don't see any reason," the writer complained, "why I should have to pay 15 percent more for my stamps just because I live in New Hampshire."

Then, there was the wealthy Texas collector (aren't they all?) who sold his collection at such a tremendous profit that he asked his favorite dealer who sold him all of the stamps what he could do to show his appreciation.

The dealer, a golf enthusiast, told the collector that if he really wanted to buy him something, three matched golf clubs would suit him nicely. Some time passed, and the dealer had forgotten all about it, but one day the letter came:

"It has taken more time than I figured, but you now own three golf clubs. But, I am sorry they don't exactly match. One of them has no swimming pool."

The collecting of autographs is not too far removed from stamps, and here is the one Herbert Hoover used to like to tell. He was rather generous with his autographs, especially to youngsters. One day a little boy pushed a large slip of paper towards him and asked him to sign it. Hoover did so and handed it back. "Now, will you sign four more times?" the boy asked. Taken aback, the president asked him why he wanted so many autographs.

"I really want a Babe Ruth," the boy responded, "and it takes four Hoovers to get one Babe Ruth."

I don't know who said it originally, and I wish I could take credit for the authorship, but those who debate the difference between a stamp collector and a philatelist can ponder this statement:

"A stamp collector is a man (or a woman) who enjoys the hobby, but loses money when he sells. A philatelist is one who knows so much more about his hobby than the professional that he not only enjoys it, but also makes a profit when he sells. A stamp dealer is one who makes sufficient profit out of stamp collectors to compensate him for what he might be making if he himself were a philatelist."

For those who are not familiar with Pat Herst, here is a brief biography:

Herman (Pat) Herst Jr., who was so enthralled by a stamp he saw in a Manhattan store window when he was 7 that he grew up to be the stamp world's most revered dealer, auctioneer and collector and by far its most garrulous booster and most prolific authority, died on Jan. 31, 1999 at his home in Boca Raton, Fla. He was 89 and had carried his passion to such an extreme that he started his own postal service.

To suggest that Mr. Herst was a ubiquitous figure in philately would hardly do justice to a man who once belonged to 81 stamp clubs, rarely missed a major exhibition, made scores of stamp-scouting trips abroad, wrote 18 books and thousands of columns about stamp news.

****

FACEBOOK?

Many stamp clubs have a Facebook page. Chattanooga Stamp Club does not! Is there any interest in establishing a Facebook page for Chattanooga Stamp Club? Is anyone interested in setting one up?

****

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The latest edition of the membership list is attached to the newsletter to members of Chattanooga Stamp Club. Several members have not paid the 2019 dues, according to this list. Please contact the Treasurer, Carl Anderson if this information is incorrect. Carl will gladly accept your 2019 dues if you wish to pay them now.

****

DID YOU KNOW?

Candles were once used to determine the postage rates? In 1693, letters were held in front of a candle to determine the postage rate. The less the light shone through, the more costly the rate. This was known as candling.

The world's largest and smallest post offices are located in the US!

The world's largest post office is the head post office in Chicago, Illinois. The smallest post office in the world is located in Ochopee, Florida.